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11 September 1947

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COUNTRY : Albania
SUBJECT : Military Information

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1. Considerable work is taking place along the whole of the Albanian coast between Vlora (Valona) and Vlorine in connection with fortifications, repair to roads, and modernization of small fishing ports by installing depots for arms, munitions, supplies and fuel. The largest depots are at Dhera, Himara, Paliaska (Palasë) and at Lushkë.

2. At the beginning of July the installation of the military base at Sarandë was completed. The armament included three AA batteries, and at the same time two AA batteries were mounted near Sarandë in the Quid area (near the point where the Bistrica River enters Lake Vivari). During May, a hydroplane base was installed on Lake Vivari. The staff, about the middle of May, was composed of five Soviet airforce officers. The staff of this base reside at Kava-lli-Baj. At the present time at least two Soviet officers are at the base.

3. At the beginning of July the construction of bolted casemates (casemates de verrou) in the middle of the road between Gush and Vagajet reached the final stage. This road is situated on the mountains along the sea coast and extends to the Greek-Albanian frontier.

4. In the Murth area, on the road between Kava and the frontier post at Ciflik, at the end of May a training camp for the Marshal Tito Commando Battalion was set up. The battalion, which has a strength of 600, is composed of Yugoslavs, Slovaks, Czechs and Hungarians and is

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commanded by Lt. Col. Velibor Zujovic. Zujovic, at the end of the war, was chief of the partisans in Transylvania and later came under the orders of Tito in Yugoslavia. The camp has twenty-two instructors. The North area is the one which has been reported for the training of volunteers of the International Brigade. This area is forbidden to the civil population.

5. In the Plamet area in southern Albania, near the Greek frontier, at the beginning of April a large training camp for female Greek partisans was set up. There were 300 women commanded by Greek partisan officers. In May, this number was increased to 400-500, but in June the number had fallen to 100. Plamet is not only a training camp, but also a Greek armaments depot containing stocks of equipment, cloth, footwear and also equipment repair shops.

6. Between 22 May and 5 June, a squadron of bombers of Italian "Piggie P.-45" manufacturers arrived at Korca from Shkoder. At the same time, another squadron of "Piggie P.-45" arrived at Shkoder. The Soviet "YAK-9" aircraft have left Korca and were on the Djindakster airfield in the middle of June.

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